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MARVEL COMICS GROUP™ 99 JUNE CC 02461

THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT X-MEN™

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DEATHSTAR RISING!

EVEN IF WE ESCAPE THE *ENERGY-SPHERES* OF THE *SENTINELS*--

HOW CAN WE *SURVIVE* IN THE *VACUUM OF SPACE?*

COCKRUM

Cyclops, Storm. Banshee. Nightcrawler. Wolverine. Colossus. Children of the atom, students of Charles Xavier, MUTANTS——feared and hated by the world they have sworn to protect. These are the STRANGEST heroes of all——these are the X-MEN!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: # THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

JY212

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Deathstar, RISING!

A MINUTE AGO, THEY HAD IT MADE...

A MINUTE AGO, THEY WERE SMASHING THEIR WAY TO FREEDOM. BANSHEE'S SONIC SCREAM TEARING SENTINELS APART LIKE THEY'D BEEN BUILT OF TISSUE PAPER INSTEAD OF STEEL...

A MINUTE AGO, IT HAD BEEN SO BEAUTIFUL. STEVEN LANG, THE MASTERMIND BEHIND PROJECT ARMAGEDDON, HAD THOUGHT THEM HELPLESS, BUT BANSHEE, WOLVERINE AND JEAN GREY HAD PROVEN HIM WRONG. THEY WERE BUSTING OUT OF HIS PRISON AND NOTHING BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL WAS GOING TO STOP THEM!*

BUT THAT WAS A MINUTE AGO...

* IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, CHECK OUT LAST ISH AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES-- marv.

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THINGS HAVE CHANGED...

ALERT... ALERT... MUTANT CAPTIVES HAVE **BREACHED** PRIMARY HULL OF **ORBITAL PLATFORM**...

...MUTANTS NOW FLOATING IN **DEEP SPACE.**

THINGS HAVE CHANGED...

YOU SAY BANSHEE, WOLVERINE, AND JEAN **AREN'T** ON EARTH, DR. CORBEAU...

...BUT HOW CAN YOU BE **SURE?**

I'M **NOT.** THAT'S WHERE **CEREBRO** COMES IN.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT **RESCUE** BE EFFECTED BEFORE MUTANT LIFE FUNCTIONS **TERMINATE**...

I'VE HOOKED IT INTO **NORAD'S VALHALLA MOUNTAIN MAIN DATA BANK**--I NEVER DREAMED XAVIER HAD **THAT** KIND OF CLEARANCE--

--ANYWAY, ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS ASK VALHALLA THE **RIGHT QUESTIONS.**

USE **ATMOS-SPHERES** TO PROVIDE MUTANTS WITH A **TEMPORARY ENVIRONMENT**...

"YOU SEE, CYCLOPS, ACCORDING TO YOUR RECORDS, SENTINELS ARE COMPOSED OF SPECIAL ALLOYS, **UNIQUE** CIRCUIT ELEMENTS, **STRATEGIC** MATERIALS-- **NORAD'LL** HAVE A RECORD OF THOSE...

SENTINEL R-71 TO MAIN MISSION: RESCUE OPERATION **COMPLETED**...

...PRELIMINARY **SENSOR SCAN** OF PRISONERS INDICATES LIFE FUNCTIONS OPERATIONAL AT **MINIMUM SUPPORT LEVELS**...ALL SUFFERING FROM **EXTREME EXPOSURE**...

"BY ASKING **SPECIFIC** QUESTIONS, WE CAN DISCOVER THE **ORIGIN** OF THOSE ELEMENTS, THEIR **DESTINATION**--EVEN A NEGATIVE RESPONSE WILL TELL US **SOMETHING**...

SEARCH NEGATIVE:

"EVENTUALLY, WITH PATIENCE, AND A LOT OF **LUCK**..."

...IN SHORT, CONSIDER YOURSELVES **LUCKY** TO BE ALIVE.

BUT I TRUST YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR **LESSON**-- THAT THERE IS **NO ESCAPE** FROM HERE...

...NOT NOW, NOT **EVER.**

...WE GET THE ANSWER I **EXPECTED**, AND...**FEARED.**

OH, MY LORD, THE SENTINELS **ARE** STAGING FROM AN ORBITAL PLATFORM...

...**SHIELD'S ORBITAL PLATFORM!**

"GOOD EVENING, HERE NOW THE NEWS--A **MIDNIGHT LAUNCH** IS IMMINENT AT CAPE CANAVERAL, WHERE THE STARCORE PROJECT SHUTTLE--PILOTED BY PROJECT DIRECTOR, **DR. PETER CORBEAU**--IS SET TO LIFT-OFF **AS SCHEDULED**, DESPITE UNUSUALLY HEAVY--AND **HAZARDOUS**--SOLAR ACTIVITY. **GERALDO...?**"

USA

MUTANTS

"WELL, ROGER, A WIDESPREAD EPIDEMIC OF **ANTI-MUTANT HYSTERIA** HAS SWEPT THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE **CHRISTMAS EVE** REAPPEARANCE OF THE NOTORIOUS, MUTANT-HUNTING **SENTINELS**...

"OVER THE WEEK-END, THE LONG ISLAND HOME OF FEDERAL JUDGE **ROBERT CHALMERS** NOTED JURIST AND OUT-SPOKEN **FOE** OF THE ANTI-MUTANT MOVEMENT, WAS **FIRE-BOMBED**...

"...FORTUNATELY, **NO ONE** WAS HOME. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF **RECENT**..."

JUDGE CHALMERS

"SORRY TO **INTERRUPT**, GERALDO, BUT WE HAVE AN **UP-DATE** ON THE STARCORE SHUTTLE LAUNCH...

"AS YOU CAN SEE, THE TEAM OF FOUR MEN AND A WOMAN IS NOW **BOARDING** THE LAUNCH VEHICLE. THEY'RE TO AUGMENT STARCORE'S **INTERNATIONAL** CREW--INTERNATIONAL, INTER-RACIAL, INTER-SEXUAL.

"SOMETHING FOR **EVERYONE.**

"THIS LAUNCH WAS SCHEDULED WITH **UNUSUAL SPEED** BY STARCORE--PRESUMABLY TO BEAT OUT THE **INCREASINGLY DEADLY** SOLAR RADIATION STORMS--

"--UNFORTUNATELY, THAT SPEED HAS LEFT US WITH **NO** FURTHER **INFORMATION** ON THE FLIGHT CREW.

"IN ANY EVENT, WE'LL BE COVERING THE LAUNCH **IN DETAIL** AFTER THIS NEWSCAST... **MELBA...?**

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BY ALL THE GODS, IT FEELS *MARVELOUS* TO GET THIS *HELMET* OFF...

MARVELOUS...? IS THAT *REALLY* THE WORD...?

ANOTHER SECOND *TRAPPED* INSIDE THIS CURSED SUIT AND I'D HAVE STARTED *SCREAMING*...

DR. CORBEAU, WON'T YOUR *REAL* CREW BE *UPSET* THAT WE HAVE TAKEN THEIR PLACE?

YOU *ARE* THE REAL CREW, NIGHT-CRAWLER.

THIS IS ALL FOR *SHOW*... A VERY ELABORATE AND EXPENSIVE *DECEPTION*.

WHICH WILL GET YOU INTO A GREAT DEAL OF *TROUBLE* WHEN IT IS DISCOVERED. YOU ARE A *GOOD FRIEND*, I THINK, HERR DOKTOR...

PETER, WHY DO YOU NOT *REMOVE* YOUR HELMET?

PETER...?

T MINUS TEN MINUTES AND *COUNTING*--VENT ALL PRIMARY *FUEL TANKS*...

SSSSS

PETER, ARE YOU--

GODS BELOW!!

TCHANG!

MIKHAIL!!

WHAT *IS* IT, MY FRIEND-- WHAT'S THE *MATTER?*

N-NOTHING, TOVARISCH ...I...I'M *SORRY*, KURT, I DID NOT MEAN TO...

I...I WAS AFRAID, KURT. *AFRAID.*

I SIT HERE, INSIDE A *ROCKET*, AND ALL I CAN THINK OF IS MY BROTHER, *MIKHAIL* ...A TEST PILOT, ONE OF RUSSIA'S FIRST *COSMONAUTS*...

...MIKHAIL...*DYING*, MY FRIEND. *BURNING* TO DEATH ON A BAIKONUR LAUNCH PAD WHEN HIS ROCKET...*EXPLODED*...

WE WERE SO... *CLOSE*, MIKHAIL AND I-- WE WERE ALL WE *HAD*...

...AND EVER SINCE THAT DAY...

I UNDERSTAND, COLOSSUS--I REMEMBER THE *APOLLO I* FIRE... THE FRIENDS *I* LOST THAT DAY...

T MINUS *ONE MINUTE* AND COUNTING--ALL SYSTEMS *GO*...

FIVE SECONDS...AND HERE I GO AGAIN, **AWAY** FROM MOTHER EARTH AND INTO THE **DEADLIEST ENVIRONMENT** KNOWN TO MAN...

...SO WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING **HOME**...?

5...

WE'VE COME SO FAR, JEAN AND I, COME THRU **SO MUCH**...

...OH, LORD, I **CAN'T** LOSE HER **NOW!**

4...

BE **CALM**, CHILD OF THE WIND...ABOVE ALL ELSE, BE CALM... BE **SURE**...

YOUR FRIENDS HAVE **NEED** OF YOU.

3...

THE "**POWER**" OF COLOSSUS-- **HAH!** HERE IT MEANS **NOTHING**. I AM **HELPLESS!**

I WONDER... WAS **THIS** HOW MIKHAIL FELT... BEFORE...?

2...

POOR COLOSSUS, HE LOOKS **TERRIFIED**--CAN'T HE SEE HOW **MAGNIFICENT** AN ADVENTURE THIS IS...

OHHH, IF MY COMRADES IN **DER JAHRMARKT** COULD ONLY SEE ME **NOW**-- THAT WOULD **SHOW THEM!**

1...

...IGNITION--

LIFTOFF!

LIGHT! BLINDING, PURE WHITE-ON-WHITE. **FLARING** FROM THE BASE OF THE GANTRY LIKE A FOUNDLING **STAR**, TURNING MIDNIGHT TO NOON IN AN **INSTANT**...

SOUND! THUNDER WHIP-CRACKING ACROSS THE CAPE, A **MILLION POUNDS** OF THRUST **HAMMERING** AT THE EARTH...

...UNTIL, **FINALLY**, THE STAR BEGINS TO MOVE. SLOWLY, AT FIRST, BUT GAINING SPEED WITH EVERY SECOND, RISING INTO THE **HEAVENS**. AND THEN, SUDDENLY, THE ROCKET IS **GONE**; THE THUNDER, GONE; THE LIGHT...GONE...

ALMOST AS IF THEY HAD **NEVER BEEN**.

STARCORE, THIS IS **CAPCOM**: AT T PLUS TWO MINUTES, YOU ARE ON TRACK, ON SKED, ALL TELEMETRY READING **NOMINAL**.

IN OTHER WORDS, A **BEAUTIFUL** FLIGHT.

I THOUGHT I **SAID** THAT, CORBEAU.

BEAUTIFUL? FOR THE **MOMENT**, PERHAPS...

...BUT LET'S SHIFT OUR ATTENTION TO **ANOTHER** SOLAR ORBIT, TO THE VAST **U.N.** SPONSORED RESEARCH STATION KNOWN AS **STARCORE ONE**...

...AND WE'LL HEAR A SLIGHTLY **DIFFERENT** TALE.

HILARY--THAT SUNFLARE!! MY INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING **OFF THEIR SCALES--!**

THEN **RE-CALIBRATE**, COLONEL KUTUZOV, AND **FAST!** THE WAY OL' **SOL'S** ACTING UP, WE'RE WORKING WITH **NO MARGIN FOR ERROR!**

COME **ON**, DMITRI, WHAT'S HOLDING UP THOSE **SOLAR FORECASTS?!**

THEY'RE JUST COMING THRU NOW...

...AND THEY ARE... **VERY BAD.** WORSE THAN WE'D **ANTICIPATED.**

"PETER CORBEAU IS FLYING STRAIGHT INTO THE **WORST** SOLAR STORM IN **LIVING MEMORY...!**"

ACH, PETER, WE ARE IN **SPACE** AND WE ARE ALL **STILL ALIVE**...

...ARE YOU **DISAPPOINTED**, MY FRIEND?

PLEASE, KURT WAGNER, **NO JOKES**...I AM NOT IN THE **MOOD**...

I FEEL...VERY ...**STRANGE**...

I ALMOST WISH I **WAS** DEAD...

A MILD FORM OF **SPACE-SICKNESS**, COLOSSUS--YOUR BODY REACTING AND ADAPTING TO **ZERO-GRAVITY**--NOTHING TO **WORRY** ABOUT...

...MEANTIME, **PIPE DOWN**, THE LOT OF YOU. I'VE GOT A **PRIORITY MESSAGE** COMING THRU FROM STARCORE...

EARLY MORNING NOW, HALF-A-WORLD REMOVED FROM CAPE CANAVERAL AND STARCORE...

POST OFFICE

POST OFFICE

THE VILLAGE OF DAL'ROON, A HALF-HOUR DRIVE OUT OF CENTRAL DUBLIN. A SMALL VILLAGE, OFF THE BEATEN TRACK, THE LOCAL FARM HOLDINGS JUST NOW BEGINNING TO GIVE WAY TO INDUSTRIAL PARKS...

...BUT STILL--ALL THINGS CONSIDERED --A NICE PLACE TO LIVE.

OR DIE.

WILL YE BE SHUTTIN' THE DOOR, YE FLAMIN' IDJIT--!

THERE'S A WINTER GALE BLOWIN'--OR HAVEN'T YE NOTICED...?

I...I'M SORRY.

MY NAME IS FLAHERTY. I'M A SOLICITOR. THIS LETTER IS FOR A CLIENT OF MINE IN AMERICA.

IT'S IMPERATIVE IT GET TO HIM WITH-OUT DELAY.

Mr. Sean Cassidy
c/o Prof. Xavier's Scho
for Gifted Young
1407 Greymalkin
Scarsdale, New Y

SPECIAL DELIV
U.S.A.

WITHOUT DELAY, YOU UNDERSTAND--!

I'LL BE KNOWIN' HOW T' DO ME OWN JOB, THANK YE VERY MUCH--I BEEN DOIN' IT NIGH ON FORTY YEARS.

NOW, FER THE LAST TIME, CLOSE THAT FLAMIN' DOOR!!

WELL, MY JOB'S DONE-- AND GLAD I AM IT IS...

A LONG WAY FROM COUNTY MAYO, AREN'T YE, MR. FLAHERTY?

YOU!!

YOU'RE TOO LATE-- YOUR COUSIN'S BEEN WARNED AND HE'LL STOP YOUR MAD PLANS!

AARRG!

POOR, FOOLISH LAWYER FLAHERTY...

...MY COUSIN COULD SOONER STOP THE MORNING SUN FROM RISING.

AYE, COUSIN SEAN, YOU'LL STOP BLACK TOM, WON'T YE...?

AT LEAST, YOU'LL DIE TRYING!!

"1,347 MILES ABOVE OUR TOUSLED HEADS, IT **CIRCLES** THE EARTH...

"...AND TO IT HAVE COME DICTATORS AND DIGNITARIES--PHYSICISTS AND FOOLS--"AND, ONCE UPON A TIME, **AVENGERS**...

BUT THAT WAS **YEARS** AGO, BEFORE **BUDGET CUTS** FORCED SHIELD TO ABANDON ITS SPACE PLATFORM...BEFORE **PROJECT ARMAGEDDON**...

WHAT'S THAT ON THE **VID-SCREEN**, MISTER?

THIS IS **STARCORE-EAGLE-ONE**. SOLAR RADIATION LEVELS ARE MOVING INTO THE **DANGER ZONE**...

...WE'RE REQUESTING **SANCTUARY**.

THIS IS **STEVEN LANG** SPEAKING--WE ARE A **TOP SECRET** U.S. GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION, CORBEAU, AND YOU HAVE **FOREIGN PERSONNEL** ABOARD...

...SANCTUARY **DENIED**.

DR. LANG--THE **MUTANT DETECTOR!** IT'S GOIN' **CRAZY!**

THAT SHIP OUT THERE MUST BE **CRAMMED** WITH **MUTIES!**

"THEN ORDER OUT THE **SENTINELS**, TECHNICIAN--I'M SURE THEY'LL GIVE OUR CRAFTY GUESTS THE WELCOME THEY **DESERVE**..."

HEADS UP, TROOPS, WE'VE BEEN RUMBLED! BOGIES AT **TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH** AND COMING FAST!

EVERYONE INTO **FULL PRESSURE SUITS** --**ON THE DOUBLE!!**

BUT WHAT ABOUT **COLOSSUS--?!**

HE **HAS** NO PRESSURE SUIT--IF WE'RE **HIT**, HE WON'T STAND A **CHANCE!**

"THEN WE JUST BETTER **PRAY** WE DON'T **GET** HIT!"

NICE TRY, DR. CORBEAU...

...BUT **NO DICE.**

CORBEAU! CYCLOPS! THE SHIP'S HULL IS **OPEN TO SPACE--!**

STORM, LOOK OUT--! THE ENERGY BEAM HAS CUT YOUR **LIFELINE!!**

HELP ME, SOMEONE--! THE EXPLOSIVE DECOMPRESSION IS PULLING STORM OUT OF THE **SHIP--!**

I CAN'T GET TO HER IN TIME!!

STORM!

CORBEAU, COLOSSUS IS **SUFFOCATING!** WE'VE NO TIME FOR **SUBTLETY,** MAN-- GET US **INSIDE** THAT STATION--

--AND GET US INSIDE **NOW!**

OKAY, CYCLOPS, BUT JUST BEAR **ONE THING** IN MIND: WE SMASH **THIS** BABY UP AND WE DON'T **GO HOME.** GOT THAT?

SO HERE GOES **NOTHING** --

--GERONIMO!!

ALERT! ALERT! TARGET VEHICLE MAKING **UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY** INTO ARMAGEDDON COMMAND BASE...

...THESE UNITS **UNABLE** TO PREVENT MUTANT INCURSION INTO **MAIN MISSION SECURITY ZONE.**

TRANSLATION: STEVE LANG'S ORBITAL ANTHILL IS BEING **RAMMED** AND **INVADED**-- AND THERE'S NOT A **BLESSED THING** HIS SENTINELS CAN **DO** ABOUT IT...

SPKA DAMM!!

L-1 TO MAIN MISSION... AM IN PURSUIT OF **LONE FEMALE MUTANT...**

AS PER **LATEST** PROGRAMMING, THIS UNIT'S MISSION IS TO SEEK OUT... AND **DESTROY!**

A SENTINEL... COMING STRAIGHT **FOR** ME...!

AND I AM **STUCK** HERE... AS HELPLESS AS AN ANTELOPE IN A **LION SNARE...**

...UNLESS... I AM **MISTRESS** OF THE WIND AND STORM... BUT WHAT IF MY POWER INCLUDES THE **COSMIC STORM** AS WELL...?

A **SLIM HOPE...** BUT IF I COULD ONLY **FLY** ON THE **SOLAR WINDS...**

AND I CAN!

HO, SENTINEL, YOU THOUGHT ME AN **EASY** TARGET--YOU WOULD HAVE SLAIN ME **WITHOUT MERCY...**

...THEREFORE, **MACHINE,** STORM GIVES YOU WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE GIVEN **ME--**

--AND MORE!!

WARNING... UNIT L-1 BEING BUFFETED BY UNKNOWN **ENERGY MATRICES...**

...THIS UNIT'S MEMORY BANKS HAVE **NO DATA** ON THIS PHENOMENON... **CANNOT COPE...**

OF **COURSE NOT,** SENTINEL...

AAAAAIIIIIIEEEEEE!!

...BECAUSE YOUR MAKERS NEVER CONCEIVED OF YOU FACING A **FORCE 12 GALE** IN DEEPEST SPACE, A GALE **BACKED** BY THE FULL POWER OF THE **RAGING SUN** ITSELF!

HIS **SCREAM**...THE **FEAR** IN IT...THAT SENTINEL SOUNDED ALMOST... **HUMAN...**

IS **THIS** HOW YOU HONOR YOUR PARENTS' **MEMORY,** ORORO? BY **BREAKING** THE OATH YOU SWORE SO LONG AGO, THAT YOU WOULD **NEVER** TAKE ANOTHER'S **LIFE?**

AND YET, SOONER OR LATER, YOUR DUTY AS AN **X-MAN** MAY REQUIRE YOU TO DO **JUST THAT.**

PERHAPS, THEN, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU... **CEASED...** BEING AN X-MAN...

AND YET AGAIN, ORORO, **HOW** DO YOU DESERT FRIENDS WHO **NEED** YOU?

THOUGH, AT THE MOMENT, WE MUST ADMIT THAT YOUR MUTANT **COMRADES** SEEM TO BE DOING **WELL ENOUGH** ON THEIR OWN.

BDOW!

CURSE YOU, MONSTER--!

WERE IT NOT FOR **YOUR KIND**, STORM WOULD BE **SAFE** NOW!

MEIN GOTT-- COLOSSUS IS FIGHTING LIKE A MAN **BERSERK**...

...LIKE A MAN FIGHTING FOR THE **WOMAN HE LOVES**...

BUT PAY ATTENTION TO THE **JOB AT HAND**, NIGHTCRAWLER-- THAT SENTINEL HAS CAPTURED **CYCLOPS**...

THIS **ANESTHETIC GAS** WILL SOON RENDER YOU UNCONSCIOUS, CYCLOPS --AND OUR **PRISONER**...

PRISONER FOR THIS **INSTANT**, SENTINEL, BUT YOU HAVE **NIGHT-CRAWLER'S PLEDGE**...

...THAT YOU'LL NOT HOLD CYCLOPS **FOR LONG!!**

AM KD

THANKS FOR THE **ASSIST,** NIGHTCRAWLER--I COULDN'T HAVE HELD MY **BREATH** MUCH LONGER...

...BUT YOU'RE NOT IN A **CIRCUS** ANYMORE, MISTER. THAT KIND OF **FLAMBOYANCE** CAN **COST** US IF YOU'RE NOT **CAREFUL.**

I HAVE BEEN A **SHOWMAN** ALL MY LIFE, CYCLOPS--

--**WATCH OUT** FOR THIS OTHER TIN FRANKENSTEIN, MY FRIEND!--

BAK!

--IT IS IN MY **BLOOD,** AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO **CHANGE** FOR YOU --OR **ANYONE!**

BIP!

HOLA!

WHAM!

NIGHT-CRAWLER, **QUICKLY!** --THAT MOVE WE WORKED OUT IN THE **DANGER ROOM!**

EXCELLENT, COLOSSUS--IF OUR **FEARLESS LEADER** THOUGHT MY **LAST** MOVE WAS FLAMBOYANT...

...WAIT UNTIL HE SEES **THIS-ONE!**

WHOM

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, OLGA KORBUT!

MY DEAR FRIEND, **COMRADE KORBUT** IS A DEDICATED AND CONSCIENTIOUS ART-IST OF THE **SOVIET PEOPLE...**

...YOU SHOULD NOT MAKE **FUN** OF HER SO.

RAKAM!

ZAK!

THAT'S THE *LAST ONE*--OVER A *DOZEN* SENTINELS SCRAGGED IN *HALF* AS MANY MINUTES...

THIS IS *INSANE*--THE DANGER ROOM GIVES US MORE *TROUBLE* THAN THESE STEEL DUMMIES HAVE. IT'S ALL A BIT *TOO EASY*...

YOU CALL *THIS*... EASY?

COMPARED TO THE *TRASK* SENTINELS, THIS MODEL'S A WALKING *JOKE*.

WHICH BEGGARS THE QUESTION: WHAT'S THE *REAL* THREAT IN ALL OF THIS...?

JEAN GREY AND THE OTHERS--WHAT ABOUT *STORM*?

SHE IS *ADRIFT* OUT THERE--SHE COULD BE *HURT!*

I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE *SOONER* WE FIND JEAN AND THE OTHERS, THE SOONER WE'LL *KNOW*.

BACK OFF, COLOSSUS--I *KNOW* HOW YOU FEEL...

YOU KNOW *NOTHING!*

SHE IS OUR *FRIEND*, OUR COMRADE IN BATTLE--SHE COULD BE... *DEAD!*

AND *YOU* ACT AS IF YOU DO NOT EVEN *CARE!* *WELL, COLOSSUS CARES!!*

YOU DO ME *GREAT HONOR*, MY FRIEND...

...AND I AM *GRATEFUL*.

EH--?!

STORM--ORORO!! YOU'RE *HERE*--!

AND YOU'RE *ALIVE!!*

SO IT WOULD APPEAR.

I CAN'T *BELIEVE IT*...THIS IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE *TRUE*--!

WHEN I SAW YOU BLOWN *OUT* OF THE SPACESHIP, I THOUGHT YOU WERE *TRULY DOOMED!*

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY... ***DIFFICULT***... TO KILL, YOUNG ONE...

...BUT I MUST ADMIT, I FIND THE ***SENTINELS*** EASIER TO SURVIVE THAN YOUR ***BEAR HUGS.***

OH, I AM ***SORRY***... IT'S JUST THAT I AM SO ***GLAD*** TO SEE YOU. WE ***ALL*** ARE, EH, CYCLOPS? ***CYCLOPS...?***

SCOTT...

IMAGES... INSIDE MY ***MIND***... I CAN'T... ***JEAN...!***

HELP US, SCOTT. TIME IS ***RUNNING OUT*** FOR THE PROFESSOR AND ME... CAN BARELY ***HOLD CONTACT...***

BANSHEE AND WOLVERINE ARE IN THE "***B***"-DECK ***DETENTION CELLS...***

...PROFESSOR X AND I ARE IN ***MAIN MISSION...***

BUT HURRY, SCOTT, ***HURRY!*** STEVEN LANG IS COMING--HE MEANS TO... ***MURDER*** US...!

COLOSSUS, STORM, NIGHTCRAWLER--FOLLOW THE ***ROUTE SIGNS*** DOWN TO "B"-DECK; YOU'LL FIND ***WOLVERINE*** AND ***BANSHEE*** THERE.

BREAK THEM ***FREE*** AND THEN ***JOIN ME*** IN MAIN MISSION!

MOVE IT, PEOPLE --WE'VE ***NO TIME*** TO WASTE!

BUT, CYCLOPS, THAT WILL LEAVE YOU ***ON YOUR OWN...***

...SUPPOSE THERE ARE MORE ***SENTINELS...?***

THEN I'LL ***HANDLE*** THEM, STORM.

RIGHT NOW, I'VE GIVEN YOU AN ***ORDER*** --***OBEY IT!***

AS FOR MR. ***STEVEN LANG,*** SO-CALLED ***HEAD HONCHO*** OF THIS BALL OF WAX...

...***HE'S MINE,*** X-MEN. ***MINE ALONE!!***

I'LL SAY THIS FOR THE **LAST TIME,** PEOPLE-- GET **OUT** OF HERE! YOU COME WITH **ME,** DR. CORBEAU. CAN'T HAVE YOU RUNNING INTO A **STRAY SENTINEL** IN THE DARK.

UH...YES, OF COURSE... LOOK, CYCLOPS, DON'T YOU THINK YOU WERE A LITTLE **ROUGH** ON THEM...

...BUT...I GUESS YOU'VE GOT MORE **IMPORTANT** THINGS ON YOUR MIND, **HAVEN'T** YOU...?

CYCLOPS DOESN'T **ANSWER** --HE DOESN'T REALLY **HAVE** TO.

IT SEEMS THE **TRASK NOTES** I USED TO RECONSTRUCT THE SENTINELS WERE **IN-COMPLETE**...THE SENTINELS **SECOND-RATE...**

...NOT THAT IT **MAT-TERS.** I HAVE ALL THE DATA I **NEED** FROM YOU MUTANTS. WHICH MAKES YOU **EXPENDABLE...**

YOUR FRIENDS MAY HAVE **TAKEN** THIS STATION, MISS GREY--

--BUT I'M AFRAID **YOU** WON'T BE ALIVE TO **SHARE** IN THEIR "VICTORY"--

FTHOM!

--MY **GOD!**

ZZZZZ

SHE'LL BE A LOT **MORE** ALIVE THAN **YOU,** SCUM--!

FREE **JEAN** AND THE **PROFESSOR,** CORBEAU...

...I'LL DEAL WITH MR. LANG, **PERSONALLY!**

BRAK!

HOW DOES IT **FEEL,** YOU **ANIMAL**-- FACING SOMEONE **ONE-ON-ONE,** SOMEONE WHO CAN **FIGHT BACK!?**

ANSWER ME, LANG-- ANSWER ME!!

CYCLOPS, FOR PITY'S SAKE, **STOP!** YOU'RE **KILLING** HIM!

ANSWER!!

SUDDENLY...

SCOTT--BEHIND YOU!! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE NEXT ROOM!

WHAT IS IT, JEAN--ANOTHER SENTINEL?

NOT QUITE.

AK!

AAARRRGH!

NO. OH NO--IT CAN'T BE YOU...

...PLEASE DON'T LET IT BE YOU.

BUT IT IS, MISS GREY...THE ULTIMATE IRONY...

...THE ULTIMATE, UNDEFEATABLE ENEMY.

THIS IS THE HEART OF PROJECT ARMAGEDDON, MY DEAR--NOT THOSE RATHER PATHETIC SENTINELS...

...THOUGH I ADMIT I HAD HOPES FOR THEM.

RESISTANCE, AS THEY SAY, IS FUTILE--YOUR MENTAL POWERS ARE BEING NEUTRALIZED BY A MIND NOT... UNLIKE YOUR OWN...

"WHICH MEANS, OF COURSE, THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WARN YOUR FELLOW X-MEN UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE...

"TAKE HER AWAY, MY PETS. PREPARE HER.

"BECAUSE OUR FINAL ACT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN."

BANSHEE--ALL OF YOU--LOOK!

I'M LOOKIN', BUT I'M A FAR, FAR PIECE FROM BELIEVIN'!

ACH, THIS IS A JOKE, IS IT NOT? IT MUST BE A JOKE. OR A NIGHTMARE.

IF IT **IS,** FELLA, THEN THE JOKE'S ON **US**... AND IT'S THE KIND OF JOKE THE **X-MEN** CAN DO **WITHOUT**...

...JUST LIKE WE CAN DO WITHOUT **IMPOSTERS.**

IMPOSTERS? **NOT SO,** CYCLOPS--WE **ARE** THE X-MEN...

LIKE **HECK** YOU ARE, LADY!

AGREED, ICEMAN. AND THESE IMPOSTERS ARE THE **DEADLIEST** FOES YOU HAVE **EVER FOUGHT.**

SO, **ATTACK,** MY X-MEN! SHOW THEM THE **SAME** MERCY THEY WOULD SHOW **YOU**...

ATTACK **THESE** IMPOSTERS--

--AND **KILL THEM ALL!!**

NEXT: OUR CATACLYSMIC HUNDREDTH ISSUE--A TALE OF TRIUMPH...AND TRAGEDY. **X-MEN** VS. **X-MEN**--TO THE **DEATH!**

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